

Remarks

The Office Action mailed December 29, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment and following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-17 and 19-21 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-15 and 19 stand rejected. Claims 16, 17, 20, and 21 have been allowed.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. EP 0 726 348 (Wyss) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a method of making a filter medium for use in a filtering application at an application temperature, wherein the method comprises “providing a substrate...providing a polyimide stiffening agent in solution...treating the substrate with the polyimide stiffening agent solution...and curing the treated substrate, wherein the treated substrate with the polyimide stiffening agent is capable of withstanding at least 100,000 cleaning pulses at a temperature of about 375°F, a flowrate of about 1200 cubic feet per minute, and a pressure of about 60psi.”

Wyss does not describe nor suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. For example, Wyss does not describe nor suggest a method including providing a polyimide stiffening agent in solution, nor treating a substrate with a polyimide stiffening agent solution. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Wyss describes a composition of a rigidizing film forming material, such as a polyamideimide, and a fluropolymer formed as an aqueous dispersion. As described in Applicant’s specification at paragraph 37 (as recorded by the U.S.P.T.O.), “[t]he polyimide resins provide sufficient stiffness at lower weight pick ups primarily due to the following: First, the polyimide resin is in solution, rather than an emulsion or dispersion. This allows a thinner, more uniform impregnation of the substrate with the polyimide resin.” For at least the reason set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted as patentable over Wyss.

Claims 3-6 and 8 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 3-6 and 8 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 3-6 and 8 are, for at least this reason, likewise patentable over Wyss.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 3-6, and 8 be withdrawn.

The rejections of Claims 1-15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description and enablement requirements are respectfully traversed.

More specifically, Claims 1, 9, and 19 have been amended to recite that the substrate with the polyimide stiffening agent “is capable of withstanding at least 100,000 cleaning pulses at a temperature of about 375°F, a flowrate of about 1200 cubic feet per minute, and a pressure of about 60psi. As such, Claims 1, 9, and 19 are submitted as satisfying the requirements of Section 112, first paragraph.

Claims 2-8 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-8 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-8, for at least this reason, likewise satisfy the requirements of Section 112, first paragraph.

Claims 10-15 depend from independent Claim 9. When the recitations of Claims 10-15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 9, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 10-15, for at least this reason, likewise satisfy the requirements of Section 112, first paragraph.

Claim 19 depends from independent Claim 16. When the recitations of Claim 19 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 16, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 19, for at least this reason, likewise satisfies the requirements of Section 112, first paragraph.

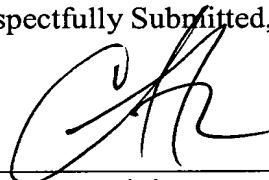
For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 112 rejections of Claims 1-15 and 19 be withdrawn.

The objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 is respectfully traversed. More specifically, Figures 1-4 have been amended to increase the top margin to at least 2.5cm, and Figures 7 and 8 have been amended to increase the height of all numbers, letters, and reference characters to at least 32cm. Replacement sheets for Figures 1-4, 7, and 8 incorporating the above-identified amendments are enclosed herewith in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d). No new matter has been added. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The objection to Claims 15 and 21 is respectfully traversed. More specifically, Claims 15 and 21 have been labeled as original to reflect that the Amendments thereto in the Amendment dated November 7, 2005 were improper and were therefore not entered. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests the objection to Claims 15 and 21 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHL', is written over a horizontal line.

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